

REMARKS

Claims 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-50 are pending in the current application, with claim 50 being newly presented. Claims, 20, 22, 25-27, and 30-49 stand rejected, and claims 20, 30-37, and 42-45 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat 6,483,983 to Takahashi et al. (“Takahashi”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

With regard to claim 20, the Examiner alleges that Takahashi discloses each and every feature of this claim, including “each thumbnail picture stored as a block of menu data on the recording medium” by its disclosure of a picture array menu. Applicants respectfully submit that Takahashi’s picture array menu cannot, inherently or explicitly, meet the recited storage arrangement of thumbnail pictures. Specifically, Takahashi discloses only methods of *visually displaying and reproducing* thumbnails in an on-screen array, and is silent regarding how these thumbnail images are physically *stored* on a recording medium. *See* Takahashi, Col. 2, ll. 34-37. Even where Takahashi potentially suggests a thumbnail storage scheme, it is that the thumbnails are not stored as a “block of menu data” but rather in disparate, plural positions—not in the same menu data block. *See, e.g.*, Takahashi, Col. 2, ll. 46-50. Thus, Takahashi does not disclose the thumbnail picture storage arrangement as recited in claim 20.

Because Takahashi does not teach or fairly suggest each and every element of claim 20, Takahashi cannot anticipate or render obvious this claim. Claims 30-33 are equally allowable over Takahashi at least for reciting a similarly unique thumbnail image storage scheme as claim

20. Claims 25-27, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 20, 25-27, 30-33, 35-37, 39-41, 43-45, and 47-49 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, and 46 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of US Pat 5,917,830 to Chen et al. (“Chen”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Chen does not cure, nor does the Examiner apply Chen for curing, the disclosure and suggestion deficiencies discussed above in Takahashi. Specifically, Chen does not disclose a menu block physically storing thumbnail images as recited in the independent claims. Because Takahashi, alone or in combination with Chen, fails to teach or suggest each and every element of claims 20 and 30-33, these references cannot anticipate or render obvious claims 20 and 30-33. Claims 22, 34, 38, 42, and 46 are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Withdrawal of the rejection to claims 22, 34, 38, 42, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 20, 22, 25-27 and 30-49 in connection with the present application are earnestly solicited.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$1050.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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